

any additional expense or trouble, perform the duties assigned to the twenty-one assistant superintendents of public schools in Maryland.

Why can we not then harmonize in this matter? If we can have the duties well performed, and at a cost less than would be incurred by the provisions of this report as it stands, why should we, as the warm friends of public instruction, unnecessarily array against ourselves public opposition in the State on the ground that the article as it now stands would entail endless expense upon the people of the State?

I think then that one object reached by this amendment should be to provide that all the work necessary to be done by the assistant superintendents shall be done by the school commissioners of the several counties. Another object to be gained will be this, that no arbitrary number of school commissioners will be fixed for the county, but that the superintendent, the first-class man talked about here to-day, shall signify to the State board of education exactly how many commissioners are wanted in each county, that in our system we may have all the features and appliances absolutely necessary, at the least possible cost.

Again, sir, this amendment, if adopted, will necessitate striking out the 4th section, which would accomplish one good by relieving the article of unnecessary detail and prolixity.

Then, sir, if these two objects are to be gained by the adoption of the amendment, I appeal to those gentlemen who have most eloquently addressed the convention in behalf of an educational system, whether it is not their duty to perfect that system in a manner to make it most acceptable to the judgment of the people. It seems to me clear that these two good objects will be accomplished by the amendment.

Mr. PURNELL. I do not know, sir, that I will not accept the amendment suggested by the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands.) I find by reference to the school laws of Worcester, that it will approximate very nearly to the spirit and intent of the law already in existence and now practiced upon. I find that in that county there are five gentlemen appointed by the board of education, instead of one in each district, and this board of education appoints trustees in each district, who have the general superintendence and management of the schools in the various districts, and they get their reports from the board of trustees.

As to the objection urged by my friend from Baltimore city, chairman of the committee (Mr. Cushing,) with regard to the accumulation of expense from officers, I do not know that it would make very much difference. But I do not compute this subject by dollars and cents. It is the real, substantial,

practical good to result to our people in Maryland that I look at. The present commissioners receive two dollars per day. If we increase the number to ten, of course we double that amount. But that really is not a consideration with me, nor will it control my vote upon this subject at all. As I think the objects I desire will be obtained by the adoption of the amendment of the gentleman from Howard, I accept it as a substitute for my own.

Mr. MILLER. There is one objection to the amendment which occurs to me. It adopts the language of the 4th section that the school commissioners of Baltimore city shall remain as at present constituted. Has the gentleman reflected upon the consequence of adopting such a constitutional provision in the organic law of the State? It makes all the laws of the city of Baltimore, all the ordinances or legislation upon this subject of school commissioners irrevocable forever hereafter and in effect a part of the organic law of the State. To obviate that I move to amend by adding the words:

"Subject to such alterations and amendments as may be from time to time made by the general assembly or the said mayor and city council."

Mr. SANDS. I will accept that, and think it will be acceptable to the committee.

Mr. CUSHING. I think that will satisfy the committee.

Mr. PURNELL accepted the modification of his amendment.

Mr. DANIEL. I think I will sustain the amendment. This board of education consists of the governor, lieutenant governor, president of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives and State superintendent of public instruction. I do not think these persons will understand this system so thoroughly as the State superintendent, and I would prefer that these officers should be appointed by him; but I will not object to the amendment on that account.

Mr. SANDS demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question being taken the result was—yeas 31, nays 20—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Bond, Brown, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Earle, Edelen, Greene, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopkins, Keefer, Kennard, Lee, Markey, Mayhugh, Mitchell, Miller, Mullikin, Nyman, Parran, Purnell, Ridgely, Robinette, Sands, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Wooden—31.

Nays—Messrs. Abbott, Annan, Baker, Cunningham, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Harwood, Hebb, Hopper, King, McComas, Murray, Parker, Pugh, Russell, Schley, Scott, Smith, of Worcester, Todd—20.

As their names were called,

Mr. ABBOTT said: I think you are striking out of that one of its most important